

Indian Village Historic District

General boundaries: E. Jefferson, Mack, Seminole, and Burns.

Local	✓	1/1/71
State	✓	10/29/71
State Marker	✓	1/19/78
National	✓	3/24/72



Indian Village home designed by Albert Kahn

Photo courtesy of Detroit News

Historic overview:

Indian Village Historic District consists of 350 upper class homes in a variety of architectural styles, built largely between 1895 through the 1920s. The name is not necessarily reminiscent of the area's history; it was conceived for sales appeal. Prominent architects such as Albert Kahn, Louis Kamper, and William Stratton designed these residences for some of Detroit's leading residents. Many famous Detroiters lived here, including the Edsel Fords, brewer Fritz Goebel, and Wayland D. Stearns of Stearns Drug Company.

In the early 1800s this area was farmland, and during the 1850s-1860s was home to the Hamtramck Race Course, and host of the Michigan State Fairs. Near the turn of the century, the land was subdivided with the intention of creating only the elite first class homes. An eclectic mix of seventeen architectural styles was built, ranging from Georgian, Victorian, English Tudor, and Mediterranean. "Many of the homes have elaborate carved wood moldings, Pewabic tile, onyx fireplaces, vaulted ceilings, third-floor ballrooms, servants' quarters and carriage houses bigger than many 1970s-era suburban mansions." (detnews.com)

Grosse Pointe attracted some of Detroit's wealthy during the 1920s, and in the late 1960s through 1980s, minor crimes were becoming more common, and Indian Village residents increased security measures in the neighborhood. Despite these issues, the village has remained a privileged area. This cohesive community has many strong residents' associations ranging from garden clubs, play groups, and a historical collection. The Indian Village Historic District includes several churches, schools, and a newly built clubhouse that replaced the old Detroit Indian Village Tennis Club.

